

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

SUB A1 &gt;

1. A method for allowing a designer to specify whether a web page layout is primarily by rows or by columns, comprising the steps, performed by a data processing system, of:

5 receiving input from the user specifying a layout of display elements on the web page;

determining a primary split direction for the web page;

determining needed splits in the primary split direction for the web page; and

10 displaying the web page on a display screen, including indications of the locations of the determined splits.

2. The method of claim 1, where the step of determining s primary split direction includes the step of receiving an input from the user indicating a primary split direction.

3. The method of claim 1, further including the step of allowing the user to lock the size of selected text of the web page.

20 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the displaying step is performed when the user presses a "View Table" button on the display.

5. A method for allowing a designer to specify whether a web page layout is primarily by rows or by columns, comprising the steps, performed by a data processing system, of:

receiving input from the user specifying a layout of display elements on the web page;

determining a primary split direction for the web page;

determining needed splits in the primary split direction for the web

5 page; and

generating an internal representation of the web page where the layout of the web page is primarily by rows or primarily by columns in accordance with the split determining step.

10 6. The method of claim 5, where the step of determining s primary split direction includes the step of receiving an input from the user indicating a primary split direction.

15 7. The method of claim 5, further including the step of allowing the user to lock the size of selected text of the web page.

8. The method of claim 5, wherein the generating step if performed when the user presses a "Publish" button on the display.

20 9. The method of claim 5, wherein the generating step if performed when the user presses a "Preview" button on the display.

ADD A3 >